— Inviting delegations from tobacco organisations of identified markets to familiarise them with the Indian tobacco industry, the quality of Indian tobacco and holding discussions with Indian exporters.

— Having regard to the nature of the commodity and the marketing environment for it in the country and abroad it has been the policy of the government to regulate the production and supply of tobacco so as to ensure and remunerative price to the farmer.

Report of Extreme Focus Groups

3336. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Extreme Focus Groups which were set up by the Ministry have submitted their reports;

(b) if so, what are the details of reports and recommendations; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on these recommendations

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Reports submitted by the Extreme Focus Groups have been consolidated into a single Report. The recommendations made by Trade Groups are both general and commodity specific relating to macro economic policy, procedural simplifications, infrastructural improvements and institutional arrangements. Several points pertain to changes in tax policy and better terms for export credit. Some points relate to simplification of procedures and removal of procedural irritants, while other points pertain to creation of better infrastructural facilities and institutional framework.

(c) Government have already taken a number of decisions on these recommendations which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, directions to commercial banks to increase the availability of credit to the export sector, opening up Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations to the private sector, extending testing facilities for packaging materials in the country and simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfilment of export obligations. In the Budget for 1993-94, full convertibility of the Rupee on trade account has been introduced and customs and excise duties have been reduced, particularly those on raw materials and capital goods relating to some of the Extreme Focus sectors.

Export of Engineer and Electronic items

3337. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the performance of Engineering and Electronics items in India's exports during last three years;

(b) the details of the steps taken to improve the performance of exports of these two sectors; and

(c) whether the liberalisation of baggage rules announced recently adversely affect the domestic market for these goods ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Details of India's export of engineering and electronic items during the last three years are as under :—

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Export of Engineering goods	Export of Electronic goods.
1989-90	2775	750
1990-91	3443	995
1991-92	4855	1337